

Oceana County Youth Council 4-H Scholarship Program 2025 - 2026

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Oceana County Youth Council 4-H Scholarship Program. The Oceana County 4-H Youth Council aims to provide financial support to graduating seniors who have been actively involved in its projects, programming, activities and events.

A maximum of 3 scholarships in the amount of \$400.00 will be awarded each year. To apply, applicants must be currently enrolled in Oceana County 4-H, have achieved a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher, been accepted at a college, university or secondary education program or enlistment in military service, and have a minimum of 4 years of involvement in 4-H. In addition, the applicant is required to provide a letter of recommendation from a school counselor, teacher or administrator along with a copy of his/her high school transcript along with the application. If homeschooled, a letter from a non-related individual such as club leader or community leader who is familiar with the applicant's academic work will be accepted.

In addition to the Scholarship monies, the Oceana County 4-H Youth Council seeks to provide education, experience and resources to assist individuals in attaining personal development skills which can be used to benefit students as they prepare for the next phase of their education or training. Assistance and feedback is available throughout the Scholarship Program process. It is hoped that skills used to complete 4-H's process can be utilized in securing additional scholarship opportunities, internships or employment opportunities. Resources such as samples of completed scholarship applications and thank you notes, application completion assistance, sample interview questions, interview training/coaching, post interview feedback and more is available upon request.

The deadline for submission of this year's application is 4:00 pm on Friday, February 6, 2026 to the 4-H MSU extension office.

Applications will be evaluated by the Scholarship selection committee based on the following criteria:

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| 1. Presentation of application: Neatness, spelling, and format of answers | 5 points |
| 2. Biographical Essay | 20 points |
| 3. Memberships: 4-H Clubs, Committees and Others | 15 points |
| 4. Awards and Honors | 15 points |
| 5. Education and Training | 15 points |
| 6. Leadership | 15 points |
| 7. Fair Projects and Exhibits | 5 points |
| 8. Scholastic Achievements and Recommendation | 10 points |

Scholarship monies are paid directly to the Scholarship Award winner to reimburse educational, training or travel expenses incurred during the first year of secondary education or first year of active enlistment. To receive reimbursement, the applicant must provide proof of attaining a secondary education GPA of 2.5 or greater (based on a 4.0 scale) or receipts for military training related expenses within one year following high school graduation to the MSU extension office no later than June 30, 2026 along with a Thank You Note addressed to the Oceana County 4-H Youth Council.

If you have any questions or would like to take advantage of our resources, please feel free to contact the MSU extension office. Thank you again for your interest in the Oceana County 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Program.

Sincerely,

Oceana County 4-H Youth Council Awards & Recognition Committee

Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship Application – 2025/2026

Purpose: This scholarship is competitive and will only be awarded to highly qualified candidates. This scholarship is to assist 4-Hers, who are high school graduates, who seek further education beyond the secondary level or become actively enlisted in a branch of the United States Military. A maximum of 3 scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$400.00 and will be issued to the awardee upon successful completion (GPA of 2.5 or higher) of at least one semester and verification process or graduation of basic training.

Requirements of Applicants:

1. Will be a high school graduate by June of the current 4-H year with a GPA of 2.5 or greater
2. Has acceptance at a college, university or trade school or certificate program/course of study OR is actively enlisted in a military branch of service.
3. Is a currently enrolled 4-H membership with at least four years of total involvement in the Oceana County 4-H Youth Program
4. Provide proof of attaining a secondary education GPA of 2.5 or greater (based on a 4.0 scale) within one year following high school graduation or graduation of military basic training.
5. **Complete entire application packet for submission no later than 4:00pm on Friday, February 6th 2026 to 4-H Extension Office.**
6. Applicant's will be evaluated based on the following Point System:

Format for Applicant's Written Responses

I. Applicant's Biographical Essay – Provide a statement which will let the committee get to know you as a person. Include examples of how involvement in 4-H has been a positive impact on your life. Provide information about your employment history, educational goals, and community involvement. Describe ways you plan to be part of 4-H and your community as an adult. Describe how this scholarship can help your future goals. (Minimum 250 words)

II. Participation and Achievements – Use the format provided in response to the following categories. Heading should appear at the top of each category. Lists should be constructed in reverse chronological order, with most recent experiences and achievements at the top:

A. Membership

1. 4-H Memberships (List all 4-H clubs and committees you have been involved in)
2. Other memberships (List all other membership in school and community associations

such as scouting, church, athletic teams, student organizations, etc.

B. Awards and Honors (List awards and honors received such as presented by club and at the Annual Fall Awards Banquet, school, community organizations, church, etc.)

C. Education and Training (List all activities involving education and training including classes, seminars, trips, demonstrations, Exploration Days, State 4-H Shows, etc.)

D. Leadership: List 4-H and other leadership activities by year. (List may include Teen Leader, Club Officers, 4-H Ambassador, Big Buddy, as well as community leadership such as student government, clubs, athletic teams, associations, charitable organizations, church, employment, etc.)

E. Fair Projects & Exhibits: (List your fair exhibits, demonstrations, projects, and other recognition for each year of 4-H participation)

III. Scholastic Achievements and Recommendation – Complete the form to obtain a Letter of Recommendation from a school official. Once received, attach the Letter of Recommendation and Transcript copy to the form and add to the Scholarship Application.

Applications must be received by the MSU Extension Office no later than 4pm on February 6th, 2026.

Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship Application

Please Note: Assistance and Samples of Completed Scholarship Applications are available upon request

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Age: _____ Birthdate: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Name and Address of High School Attending: _____

School Scholastic GPA: _____ out of _____ points Class Rank: _____ of _____ students

Years of Completed 4-H membership: _____ Club(s) _____

College, University of Higher Education facility accepted into: _____

I. Applicant's Biographical Essay – Provide a statement on a separate paper which will let the interviewer get to know you as a person.

II. Participation and Achievements – (Add additional examples and spots if necessary.)

A. Membership: List your years of membership in 4-H Clubs, then other organizations:

Year: _____ 4-H Club: _____

Year: _____ Organization: _____

B. Awards: (Add additional examples and spots if necessary.)

Year: _____ 4-H Award/Honor: _____

Year: _____ Academic, Athletic or Community Award/Honor: _____

C. Education and Training: (Add additional examples and spots if necessary.)

Year: _____ Activity: _____

Year: _____ Activity: _____

D. Leadership: (Add additional examples and spots if necessary.)

Year: _____ Activity: _____

E. Fair Projects & Exhibits: (Add additional examples and spots if necessary.)

Year: _____ Project: _____

Year: _____ Project: _____

Year: _____ Project: _____

III. Scholastic Achievements and Recommendation – Complete the form to obtain a Letter of Recommendation from a school official. Once received, attach the Letter of Recommendation and Transcript copy to the form and turn in with the entire Scholarship Application.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Applicant's Name _____

High School: _____ Applicant GPA: _____

Intended College/Trade School/Military Branch: _____

Intended Degree or Field of Study: _____

Dear School Official:

The Oceana County 4-H Youth Council provides financial support to graduating seniors. Qualified applicants must have achieved a 2.5 GPA or higher and have been involved in Oceana County 4-H for 4 or more years. In addition, the applicant is required to provide a letter of recommendation from a school counselor, teacher or administrator. If homeschooled, a letter from a non-related individual such as a club leader or community leader who is familiar with the applicant's academic work will be accepted.

Please provide a letter of support for this applicant which includes the context in which you know the applicant, specific examples of outstanding skills, completed goals and accomplishments, demonstrated character, and leadership experience. Please include indications for the future success by this individual.

PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE APPLICANT'S HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT TO THIS FORM

Applicant's GPA: _____ as of _____ (Today's Date) Applicant's Class Rank: _____ of _____

Name of School Official: _____ Title: _____

Signature of School Official: _____

Date: _____

MSU Extension Programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.